

# e-Bugle

## Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 53

April 2006

No. 4



### Calendar

Sun., Apr. 23	Dedication of Seferlis sculpture, 3 pm, Penn Place (see p 5)	Sat., May 6	GPES Spring Fair, 10 am–3 pm; GIVES collection, Penn Place lobby, 9 am–1 pm
Wed., Apr. 26	Citizens Association meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm; Candidates Forum (see statements, p 7)	Mon., May 8	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sat., Apr. 29	Weed whacking, woods by train stop, 8:30 am–12 n (p 3); Progressive dinner, 6–10 pm (appetizers at Town Hall)	Tues., May 9	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm; GP Swimming Pool Assoc. spring mtg., Town Hall, 7 pm
Mon., May 1	Voting, Post Office lobby, 7–11 am, 4–7:30 pm; First Monday coffee/tea break, 10–11:30 am, Penn Place; Swearing-in ceremony/party around 9 pm, Town Hall	Sat., May 13	Dues payment deadline, swimming pool
Thurs, May 4	GP Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm	Sun., May 14	Musicale, Town Hall, 1 pm (p 2)
Thurs., May 4, Fri., May 5	Garrett Park Elem. Kindergarten Orientation (see p 3)	Thurs., May 18	GP Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm
Fri., May 5	Due date for submissions to lists of graduates and jobs (p 5)	Sat., May 20	Plant Swap, Penn Place, 10 am
		Tues., May 23	Garrett Park Women's Club lecture, TBD
		Sat., May 27	Swimming pool opens, 10 am; picnic, 5 pm
		Wed., May 31	Citizens Association mtg, TBD

### A Councilmember's Valedictory

The April meeting of the Town Council started early, with a presentation by Fred Millar on the subject of our vulnerability because of the trains that come through Garrett Park, some of which carry toxic materials that could spill or be sabotaged. "You folks are in a target area—one of the most at-risk areas of the country. You're

in a 'near-zone'... Your only hope is prevention." Millar wants trains to reroute cars carrying dangerous materials so they're not going through cities and towns. "We've got to keep this dangerous cargo out of our cities. And we've got to do it ourselves. Homeland security under the Bush administration is a joke."

(continued next page)

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(continued from previous page)

After Millar, Miguel A. Ascarrunz, Emergency Manager for Montgomery County’s Homeland Security department, detailed the county’s Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan. He also asked that Garrett Park sign on to the County’s Flood Plain Mitigation Plan; once he assured members of the audience that this involvement would entail no financial or other difficulties for the town or for individual citizens, and that we could pull out of it if we changed our minds, people seemed to like the idea. Later in the meeting the plan passed, as written.

Now the meeting proper began, with a citizen presentation in which a Garrett Parker, clearly inspired by Millar’s presentation, asked that more be done in town on emergency management. Councilmember Soltan suggested that the Council put together a resolution on the matter for the May meeting.

Another citizen, moving from the global to the local, complained about the loss of the sledding hill at Penn Place, which has been planted over with pachysandra. The Mayor explained that mowing that area was difficult and dangerous, and that some room has been left over for sledding. A wag in the audience suggested we initiate a Hazardous Pachysandra Mitigation Plan.

In her report, the Mayor, having determined that it has “been a very pretty spring,” reminded us to thank the various people who work to make the town beautiful. And on the subject of town beauty, the Penn Place sculpture is now ready and will be dedicated on April 23 at 3 pm. Black Market will provide goodies. (Fun fact: The sculpture’s Seneca stone comes from an old D.C. jail that was taken down years ago.)

Councilmember Art Bennett (whom we all later honored for his service on the Council with a chocolate cake) reported that in its last meeting the Historical Preservation Committee concluded that there is still value in the demolition permit procedure, but the Committee would like direction from the Council as to how the town can get authority to halt or delay demolitions.

Councilmember Soltan then announced the formation of a right-of-way committee, and he asked that citizens interested in taking part contact him.

An ordinance adopting the operating capital budget for 2007 passed, despite the continued opposition of members Bennett and Soltan, for whom the tax break is a problem (see last month’s *Bugle* for details). A citizen in attendance disagreed with Bennett and Soltan, noting that “the taxes we pay for the joy of living in this town are significant... and we’re not all lawyers here.”

The council then passed Peter Benjamin’s motion that “all parking on the west side of Rokeby Avenue from the intersection with Waverley Avenue to the boundary between lots 9 and 10 (11010 Rokeby) shall be limited to three hours,

Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm,” enforced by ticketing. This has to do with MARC riders and Black Market lunchers vying for spots.

As the meeting wound down, departing Councilmember Bennett approached your reporter and whispered a kind of valedictory that summed up the personal sacrifices our elected representatives routinely make to run our town: “I left for this meeting tonight just as my daughter asked me to dance with her to ‘Lydia the Tattooed Lady.’”

Margaret Soltan

## 10th Anniversary Musicale

Ilah Gieser, a great old Garrett Parker who died a few years ago, inaugurated a town-supported scholarship fund to pay for music lessons for promising young musicians. In order to raise money for the fund, the town holds a musicale every spring, in which the rich variety of vocal and instrumental talent here is showcased in a brief afternoon of performance, followed by hearty food and drink.

This year’s musicale will be at the Town Hall on Sunday, May 14, at 1 pm. Bring your mother as part of your Mother’s Day celebration. Bring everyone as part of our shared celebration of another spectacularly beautiful spring in Garrett Park (much of the music for the event will have a “Summer is a-Coming In” sort of theme). Bring your friends to show off the natural as well as aesthetic gifts of our much-loved town.

And a special note to newcomers: If you’ve recently moved to Garrett Park, this event is a great way to get a sense of the place you now call home.

In the next couple of weeks, you’ll see various townspeople at the post office selling tickets for the event. We hope you’ll be able to support, on its tenth anniversary, Ilah’s brilliant idea. It’s a way to remember her past goodness, a way to mark our present good fortune as residents of a special town, and a way to keep the music coming.

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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Out-of-town subscriptions cost \$13 (first class) or \$10 (bulk mail). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

# Town Administrator Notes

**Town Elections.** Elections will be held May 1, 2006. Please be sure to vote:

- Candidate for Mayor (2 year term): Carolyn Shawaker
- Candidates for Town Council (2 seats for 2 year terms): Charles Berry, Elizabeth Irons, Pamela Morgan, and Hans Wegner (see candidates' statements, p 7).

Prior registration is required—all citizen voters must be on the county's voter roles, and noncitizens must be registered with the town.

**Absentee ballots:** There are two types of absentee ballots: The regular absentee ballots were available from the Town Office until April 19; after that, voters who will be unable to vote due to illness or conditions of employment may apply for an Emergency Absentee Ballot by contacting the Town Office. The Clerk must receive all absentee ballots before the polls close if they are to be counted.

**Hours of voting.** In keeping with the town's charter and tradition, hours of voting on Monday, May 1, will be 7–11 am and 4–7:30 pm, in the Post Office lobby, Penn Place, 4600 Waverly Avenue.

**Election reception and swearing-in at Town Hall.** The Town Hall bell will be rung before the announcement of the election results. The evening will include a swearing-in ceremony and reception. We expect the results to be available by 9 pm, so plan to come and greet the newly elected Councilmembers.

**Election Judges.** Barbara Shidler will serve as Chief Judge, with Linda Knowles and Shirin Keyani as Election Judges. Jim Agenbroad will serve as alternate judge.

**Fiscal Year 2007 budget:** At the regular April meeting, the Council adopted the FY07 budget, copies of which are available at the Town Office and posted on the Town Web site. The FY07 budget reduces the town tax rate from 20 cents per \$100 of valuation to 19 cents and anticipates a 12.6 percent increase in revenues over the FY06 budget to \$922,300; with the anticipated carry-over from FY06 of \$40,000 in unspent contingency funds, this projection yields a total of \$962,300 in receipts. These receipts will fund \$730,120 in operating expenses, up 7.6 percent from FY06, largely driven by energy cost increases for Penn Place, Town Hall, town vehicles and equipment, and town street lights—remember, we are adding 78 new lights along Strathmore Avenue. This still provides \$182,180 for the capital program and \$50,000 for the reserve fund. The FY07 capital program includes a significant investment of \$49,400 for a multiyear infrastructure improvement plan, which will be developed over the coming year

with professional assistance. Total reserves will increase to \$78,710.

As always, if you have questions or concerns about the budget or any other town issue, please call the Town Office at 301 933-7488 or e-mail us at [garrett-park@comcast.net](mailto:garrett-park@comcast.net).

Ted Pratt  
Town Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

## More Weed Whacking

Ken Ingham needs volunteers to help remove invasive species from the woods directly across from the GP train station, 8:30 until noon on Saturday, April 29. The plan is to focus on multiflora rose, honeysuckle, and mustard weed. The event is sponsored by the Garrett Park Conservation Trust. For some history on the woods, which Ken has dubbed the "C. M. Woods," read his essay, "Song of the Veery," at [www.nethingham.org/essays/essays.htm](http://www.nethingham.org/essays/essays.htm).

## GPES

Kindergarten orientation is slated for May 4 and 5 this year. Any child who is or will be 5 before September 1, 2006, should register for next year. Call the school office (301-929-2170) if you need information.

The annual GPES Spring Fair will be held at the school Saturday, May 6, from 10 am to 3 pm, rain or shine. There will be the moonbounce, carnival games, a plant sale, used toy sale, and lots of goodies at the bake sale. If any high school students need community service hours, call Dawn Watkins-Chow (301-949-3698) to sign up. Help is needed the night before to set up, as well as the day of the fair. See you there.

The school is still collecting used printer cartridges and "Box-tops for Education" labels. Printer cartridges get us \$1 each, and box-tops net the school 10 cents each. If you have any that you can donate, please bring them to the school office. The art teacher could use old calendars with nice pictures of plants, scenes, or people on them. Send them into the office also. Many thanks.

Mary Moyer

Visit Garrett Park's Web site:  
[www.garrettpark.org/](http://www.garrettpark.org/)



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## Greetings from Former Postmaster

Once again it is time for my annual update. We are doing fine. I retired in September and am enjoying my leisure time. I've finished up most of the things that I wanted or needed to do, but couldn't find the time while working. The remaining items just don't seem to be worthwhile doing.

Karen is still working as the Rapid City Volunteer Coordinator for RSVP and I believe is quite jealous of my leisure time. She and I are helping start a community library, volunteering with staffing and fund raising. One of the things I excel at is asking people for money. With this "gift" I have been moderately successful helping the library keep afloat. Karen and I are still dabbling on eBay—some for us and some for the library.

We still keep up with the town happenings through the *Bugle*. It is with sadness that we note the passing of people we knew and how few of the names in the *Bugle* we recognize anymore. However, Garrett Park continues, and that is a good thing.

A quick item for the Mayor and Town Council. A new subdivision near us with a population of 547 people just incorporated. They are paying the Mayor \$25,000 per annum and Councilmembers get \$150 per meeting. Surprisingly, the Council voted to meet at least four times a month. That is how municipal government is run in the west!

Take care and keep the *Bugle* coming.  
 Greg and Karen Spalding

## To the Many Who Rallied

I am so grateful. I have long known of Garrett Park folks' wonderful support for one another. But I had no idea how wonderful until I discovered it for myself in an instant, the day the giant red oak fell and chopped my house in half. On that day and over the period since, neighbors have offered amazing assistance.

It began with Dan Smith, who arrived at my door almost before the tree had stopped falling, got my dogs to safety, and wrapped me in a much

needed blanket. Carolyn Shawaker was with me off and on most of the day, helping on the scene, and giving me much appreciated advice and guidance. It seemed as if Gayle Hobson was by my side every single minute, and yet, when I reflect on how many emergency tasks she accomplished, I can't figure out how she managed it all. Nancy Floreen rushed to visit after a long work day to help with important contacts that would be needed in the days to come. She focused me on things I was too stunned to think about.

The day of the event and the next are actually very spotty in my memory, and I am deeply concerned that I might omit mentioning one of the many who helped. I want to thank every one of you—Suzi and Bert Zabar who loaned their lovely house (including a welcome for my three dogs!), Ronnie Sauvain for her delicious contributions and personal support, Kate Andrews who loaned her camera and others who gave me photos, Kay Hager for her advice and counsel, Jeanne Mandelblatt whose attention and suggestions helped so much, Juliana Franz, David Steward, Elizabeth Henley, Ken Keppel, and Andrew Keppel. Others also offered their homes and I am grateful. I send a very special thank you to Nick Retherford for his many kindnesses.

As those who were on the scene know, Butch Frost and Frank Breazeale were there all day, and I thank David Gregg who responded so quickly.

For such wonderful support and help on the day and every single day since, there are three people to whom I want to express particular gratitude: Gunde Hellman, Gayle Hobson, and my dear friend, Rebecca Shephard. I say "every single day" and I mean just that.

I have been blessed to escape. Neither I nor my pets suffered any injury. As a result of the personal concern and extraordinary assistance of so many, what could have been an unbearable situation has been greatly relieved. As you can imagine, I am eager for the day when I am living once again in Garrett Park.

I am exceedingly grateful to every one of you.  
 Mary Jane Gill

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# Seferlis Sculpture

It is perhaps safe to assume that the majority of Garrett Parkers walk to and from Penn Place or pass the town hall without ever thinking twice about the large boulders adorned with bronze plaques of the town's history. Many who remember Constantine Seferlis, though, are probably not surprised to learn that he considered finding the perfect set of boulders for his home town as important as creating the bust of Helen Keller that he carved years earlier into the fabric of the Washington National Cathedral. The clay model for Helen Keller was created in Seferlis's studio here in Garrett Park; so were countless others that ended up in places like Hillwood Museum, the Washington Monument, the Smithsonian Castle, and the National Sculpture Society in New York.

When Constantine and his new bride Marion were looking for a place to settle and raise a family, the requirements were simple: a comfortably sized house with a back yard big enough to construct a studio. That was 1964. The studio was finished in 1967, and the family was complete three years later.

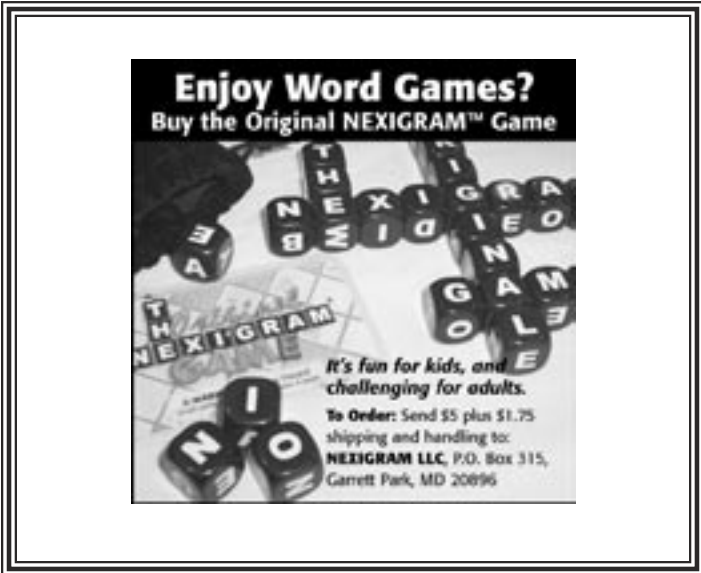
No matter where his work took him over the next decades—carving at the Ford Presidential Library in Michigan or at Princeton University, or teaching at the Mendocino Arts Center in California—one thing he looked forward to more than anything else was coming home to Garrett Park. And his studio.

It is only fitting that one of the first pieces he created in that space so long ago become a permanent part of Garrett Park's already magnificent landscape. Nothing would have pleased him more.

# We're Green Again!

Our thanks to our person in charge of mailing, Marian Green, for our green money this month. She puts in her time to keep us going, as well as her money for the banner, for which we are extremely grateful. Have you all remembered to pay your dues yet? That also keeps the *Bugle* in print. If not, send them in to Box 456. Thank you.

Mary Moyer



# GIVES Update

The GIVES Soup Supper was held at the Town Hall on Sunday, March 19, from 4 to about 6 pm. Approximately 58 attended (some children), down from 74 last year. However, we are happy to report that \$1,000 in donations were made by our very generous and caring residents. All to go to the Friends Service Committee and Zacchaeus Kitchen in Washington, D.C.

Ann Gordon., long-time member of GIVES, gave an interesting history of how the program got its start and has continued successfully through volunteer efforts for over 32 years. Then a WJ. Student and Garrett Park resident did us the honor of playing his violin. This was very well received and appreciated and brought him a standing ovation. He has a great future ahead as he is preparing for college, and we wish him the best of luck.

Now, the soup—yum, yum—over 13 varieties (many vegetarian), which were absolutely delicious. The idea of a possible soup cookbook was raised by Rana Koll-Mandel. We will try to follow up on this with her. The bread was also scrumptious. Last but not least, the laid-back music provided by Dave Almy (guitar) and Ken Ingham (harmonica) brought a happy conclusion to another successful Garrett Park event. We do think and hope that everyone enjoyed themselves.

Thanks to all who made the evening possible. And please watch for GIVES collections the first Saturday of each month in the P.O. lobby. Every dollar counts. Please call if you want to volunteer, even for only 2 hours a year. Many thanks.

Glenda Ingham & Karen Anderson

# Wanted

## Summer Jobs List

We are looking for names of people who are interested in being hired during the summer to pet sit, baby sit, mow lawns, or garden. If anyone 13 years or older would like to be put on the list, please either e-mail [cdavies@csc.com](mailto:cdavies@csc.com) or call 301-942-6130 and leave a name, age, phone number, and a description of what job you would like to do. If you have had any special training or certification (Red Cross, CPR, etc.), mention that also. Please try to get this information to me by May 5. We will publish this list in the June *Bugle*.

## Graduates Lists

Also needed for the June *Bugle* are the names of high school or college graduates and what their plans are for next fall. Include the school graduated from, the degree earned, and any honors that you received. Either e-mail [cdavies@csc.com](mailto:cdavies@csc.com) or call 301-942-6130 and leave the information on the phone mail. Please try to get this information to me by May 5.

Carol Davies

## Letter from the Mayor

The General Assembly session has ended, though there may a special session to address electricity rates. As a member of the Maryland Municipal League, I worked on a number of bills that were important to the municipalities in Maryland, as well as a number that were important for us in Garrett Park. I testified several times for the MARC train bill, which passed. Also, as a result of the pressure to protect the MARC train service for the smaller stations, the Maryland Department of Transportation will be organizing an advisory group on MARC service.

I worked with a number of other Montgomery County municipalities to help pass a bill that would give the towns without zoning authority some ability to develop restrictions on height, mass, and bulk of houses. It would also allow some regulation of impervious surfaces. This bill passed both houses of the General Assembly unanimously and is before the governor for his signature.

We were less successful on SB296, which would have allowed municipalities to purchase street lighting equipment and contract for maintenance of the lights with the lowest bidder, rather than being subject to the rates that Pepco chooses to charge. You will remember that I pointed out in last month's letter that Pepco is charging the town \$7.07 in maintenance fees for each street light each month. The induction bulbs used in our new lights will last for a minimum of 15 years, which means that we will pay \$1272.60 per bulb over the lifetime of the bulb. I worked extensively with Kensington on this bill. It was passed in the Senate, but was voted down by the House of Delegates Economic Matters Committee. The *Washington Post* carried an article a few weeks ago about the thousands of dollars Pepco was spending on lobbying in Annapolis. Though we testified several times for the bill, we had only sweet reason on our side.

The April Council meeting featured two speakers on a variety of hazards. Dr. Fred Millar, nationally recognized expert on the transportation of hazardous materials, told the Council and residents who attended the meeting about the

dangers of materials that are being transported on the CXS rail line adjacent to Garrett Park. Miguel Ascarrunz, Emergency Manager of Montgomery County, spoke about the county's plan for dealing with hazards. The Council passed a resolution to join the county Multihazard Mitigation Plan, and we will be studying the possibility of a resolution asking the county to work on the issue of transporting hazardous wastes on the railroad.

At the April meeting, the Council also passed the FY07 budget. Two items in this budget are especially significant. One is the one cent reduction on the real estate tax for each home. The second is a commitment to build for the future in the appropriation for a professional evaluation of the town's infrastructure, which will allow us to determine priorities for repair and maintenance and to create long-term five- and ten-year plans for the town's infrastructure, which the town has never done before. The study will take the better part of two years to complete and implement.

With the help of GeriLee Bennett, Ted Pratt, and Butch Frost, we put together quickly a Project Open Spaces proposal to do work in Cambria Park. Election years can be good: The governor put in the state budget a great deal of extra money for Project Open Spaces this year. Thus, we had a chance to apply for \$24,000 that would not be normally offered. If we get the full amount for the grant, this will more than offset the \$17,800 reduction in revenue that is produced by the one cent real estate tax cut.

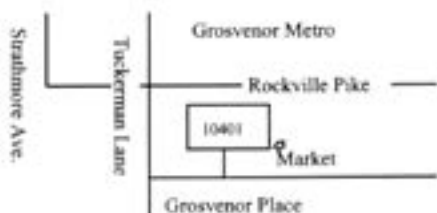
Another commitment to the future is being made in number of trees that the town is planting this year. The town is looking very beautiful this year as a result of excellent work of our maintenance people, Butch Frost and Frank Breazeale. We are grateful for all of their hard work.

On April 23, at 3 pm, in front of Penn Place, we will dedicate a wonderful stone sculpture carved by our late neighbor, Constantine Seferlis, a nationally known stone carver; his sons Leonides and Andy are generously donating this sculpture to the town in honor of their father. Please come to the celebration.

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### Candidate for Mayor

#### Carolyn Shawaker

I am seeking re-election to the office of mayor because I have had the pleasure of living in this town for almost 37 years, and it seems only reasonable that I try to do my part toward continuing to make this an excellent place to live. This is the only place east of Montana where I would want to live. I have been on the town's Parks and Open Spaces Committee and the Historic Preservation Committee. In addition, I have been the secretary of the pool board, treasurer of the Women's Club, and an organizer the Progressive Dinner. I was a member of the Town Council for about a year and a half and have had the honor of serving as your mayor the last two years.

In the coming year I hope to finally see the completion of the street light and Strathmore Avenue projects. Even more importantly, I want to begin a professional evaluation of the town's infrastructure so that we may set priorities for its repair and maintenance, as well as create five- and ten-year plans for maintaining and improving the infrastructure.

This is a beautiful town and wonderful community of people. I want to help continue the Garrett Park in which we have chosen to live.

### Candidates for Town Council

#### Charles Berry

I seek the position of Councilmember in Garrett Park to help guide needed rebuilding of some of the town's infrastructure to revive our town fabric to a quality befitting our vibrant community. We need a multiyear plan and budget for a prioritized list of projects to repair or replace some systems and assets in town, including streets, sidewalks, utilities, signage, facilities, and amenities. We also need to pass requirements to improve communication by the town government to citizens in advance of items on which the Council should decide to vote.

In Garrett Park, I am currently on the Parks and Open Space Committee and on the Parking Committee. Other activities that I am involved with include being on the Holy Cross School Board of Education, Parish Pastoral Council, Knights of Columbus, School Gala Chairman, School Computer Technology Committee, 2nd grade basketball team coach, Parish Editor of Holy Cross for Our Parish Times, and editor of the weekly school newsletter. I was the Home and School Association Vice President for the 2003–2004 school year.

A few years ago as a member of the GP Pool Board, I proposed and oversaw the installation of the deck at the volleyball court and a new timber retaining wall along the lap pool to provide more open space at the picnic area and to

give a better "grandstand" viewing area at swim meets; I also replaced the dilapidated picnic tables. As a member of the Streetlight committee, I successfully expanded the Scope of Work from the original plan (to add about 10 streetlights) to the replacement of all the streetlights in town, as most were deteriorated and not energy efficient. I proposed and gained approval from Pepco to add our new streetlight fixture to Pepco's standards to reduce our initial cost and costs for maintenance in the future.

As a civil engineer I have designed and inspected installation of roads, sidewalks, storm water control ponds and devices, sediment control devices, streetlight plans, parking lots, site grading plans, and piping for water, sewers, and storm water. As a project manager for the federal government for the last 15 years, I have been responsible for the design and construction of many building repair and renovation projects including a new child care center, a new auditorium, chillers, air handlers, sprinkler and fire alarm systems, roofs, etc. Currently, I am the project manager for the complete modernization of an office building (\$100+ million), and the project manager for a Master Plan for Urban Streetscape Improvements in southwest Washington, D.C.

My wife Patty Guay-Berry and I, along with our four boys (15, 13, 12, and 8), moved to Garrett Park in 1999 for its community feel and to be close to church and school, the pool, parks, shops, and public transportation. We enjoy the people and the variety of activities in Garrett Park and in the surrounding communities.

Our boys were "Ladybugs" on the GP Swim Team, as soon as they learned to swim and even before we moved to town. Patty and her sister Moira (Guay) Abernethy (both former Ladybugs) have been the B-Swim Team Parent Representatives for many years. Patty grew up in Kensington, and she and the Berry boys have been lifelong members of the Garrett Park Pool. They were used to the trains and slept like logs even on the first night we moved in, whereas many a freight train's horn blasts awakened me in our first few months here.

Patty is the Chief Dietitian at Suburban Hospital, a soccer coach, and a "Boot-Camp" style fitness instructor at the YMCA. Our older boys will attend Georgetown Preparatory School next year, and the younger ones will attend Holy Cross Elementary School. Our boys are on many sport teams, and are altar servers, in the youth group, scouts, band, and chess club.

#### Beth Irons

I grew up in a small town in Pennsylvania, and love Garrett Park for its "small town" community spirit. As a current and former member of several Garrett Park advisory committees, I was

## Candidates' Statements (cont'd)

encouraged by my colleagues to run for Town Council because of my ability to work easily with people of diverse opinions, my practical background in law and city planning, and my sense of humor. I fully understand the time commitments, and I would be honored to continue to serve Garrett Park in a new capacity as a member of the Town Council.

My promise to you, as your Town Council representative:

- Listen to and consider all perspectives and information
- Continue working with residents to help preserve Garrett Park's unique character and community spirit
- Work with fellow members of the Council to address residents' concerns

My professional and community leadership experience:

- Small business (interior decorating) owner
- Lawyer: experience in land-use, real estate, and corporate law
- Project manager: commercial office and retail projects, new construction, and rehabilitations
- City planner: city planning and transportation consultant

Community leadership:

- Garrett Park Historic Preservation Committee
- Garrett Park Arboretum Committee
- Founding member of Garrett Park Conservation Trust
- Montgomery Co. Commission for Women, 2 years as Vice Chair
- Montgomery Co. Cable Communications Advisory Committee, 2 years as Vice Chair
- Active member of local church

My personal interests and qualifications:

- Work from a home office, so spend much of the work day in town
- Can regularly be seen about town walking (and picking up after) my dog, Taku
- Participate in town activities, social events, and community service
- Swim daily (well, almost) during the GP pool season
- Tend my garden—the three or four types of plants that are shade-loving and deer-proof
- Have lived in Garrett Park since 1997 and have expanded and renovated my home and garden with sensitivity to the character of Garrett Park

Thank you for your vote on May 1!

### **Pam Morgan**

My parents, George and Norah Payne, lived on Montrose Avenue when I was born over 60 years ago, and Garrett Park has been "home" ever since, although not always my residence.

For 12 years I lived in England, where my two eldest children, Russell and Mark Rowe, were born. Later, I lived in Kensington and Garrett Park Estates before I could afford my own house in Garrett Park, where I live on Waverly Avenue with husband, Dick Morgan, and two younger children, Scott and Katrina, now in college. I grew up in the house on Kenilworth Avenue where my 97-year-old mother still lives.

Change has been constant in and around Garrett Park over the last 60 years. The GP Estates were built on horse fields; Holy Cross Church and School, Parkside Apartments, and Shelley Court all replaced the woods where we played; the Wells Addition on Rokeby/Kenilworth and Richterville expanded the town limits. The constant I saw over these decades is that change has enriched Garrett Park, because the town is about the people who live here and how we treat each other. As a Town Councilmember, I would join the continual decision process that balances growth and preservation, but I am not opposed to change. I support the rights of individuals and homeowners, confident that the Garrett Park tradition to care for the community as a whole carries at least as much weight as town ordinances.

In past years I have been president and co-president of the Garrett Park Citizens Association, and as the daughter and wife of former Town Councilmembers, I am acutely aware of the heavy demands on personal time that are made by town activities. In June 2005 I retired from IBM, where as project executive I managed large systems integration projects with multimillion-dollar budgets and diverse teams; I developed skills I know will serve me well on the Town Council, including communicating within the town, budget responsibility, and our relationships with municipalities, county, and state. I ask for your vote on May 1 and look forward to working with you as a Town Councilmember.

### **Hans Wegner (incumbent)**

I am completing my second term on the Council with responsibility for the Strathmore Avenue project, town street lighting, the Penn Place parking area, snow removal, leaf removal, street sweeping, town drainage issues, sidewalks, and roads.

These take a very significant commitment of time, and I appreciate the support of residents who understand that the Town Council and Mayor are volunteers who are all trying our best to balance the various needs of residents with the time and money available to meet those needs.

The Strathmore Avenue project is nearing completion. I am very pleased with what we have achieved, but it has been necessary to monitor the project every step of the way. We now have much greater pedestrian safety with sidewalks on both sides of the street, marked crosswalks,



## Candidates' Statements (cont'd)

high curbs and narrow traffic lanes to slow traffic, and private parking with turnaround pads for Strathmore Avenue residents. The lighting on Strathmore is waiting for Pepco to pull wires and provide power. We have a contractor ready to install the stone wall facings as soon as the affected residents sign off on the project, and the State Highway Administration is working on my punch list of problems that need to be fixed. The biggest challenge at this point is getting SHA to replace trees and shrubs that have died or were planted in the wrong location. The Strathmore Avenue Committee had a strong wish to see large trees that will ultimately grow to form a canopy over the road in order to slow traffic. SHA has strayed from this vision in its replacement planting plan. I am working with SHA to return to the original plan and to complete the project as quickly as possible.

I am also pleased with the new street lights around town. After several years of foot dragging and resistance, the lighting supplier, who had installed the wrong lights, finally made a correction. The project is now complete, and we would like to add a few more lights along Kenilworth and Waverly Avenues.

The Penn Place Parking Committee has been working hard to reach a solution for the parking area at Penn Place. The challenge is to create a space that balances the needs for safe movement of traffic, safe pedestrian access, and adequate parking in a setting as park-like as possible. I would like to continue working with the committee to see this project through to completion.

One of my great disappointments while serving on the Council has been our inability to do adequate street maintenance. I believe that regular street repairs are essential because streets that are neglected must be rebuilt later at a much higher cost. Unfortunately, we have been severely restricted over the past few years by the sharp drop in town revenues and by our commitment to completing several major ongoing projects. In the next year we must get a professional assessment of town infrastructure, including streets, in order to set priorities and commit the necessary fund-

ing for maintenance and repair. This is the most important task for the next Council.

I would like to serve a third term in order to complete the projects I have been working on and to begin a program of street repairs. I am willing to work hard and to commit a significant amount of time to this. I am fiscally responsible and committed to setting priorities to allocate scarce capital resources. I am also running for Council because I want to make sure that Garrett Park continues to be a place of community, civility, consideration, and respect for each other's differences. I want to do my part to promote these values and to model them for the next generation.



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